Claims

1. A method for managing digital assets, comprising the steps of:

   monitoring the use of said digital assets by a user;

   ranking said digital assets according to the extent of said use of said digital assets; and

   generating an access hierarchy based on said ranking step, wherein highly ranked digital assets are more easily accessed by said user than lower ranked digital assets.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said ranking step is based on at least one of the following: recency of use, frequency of use, and number of uses of said digital assets.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said ranking step further comprises the step of:

   applying a user-assigned value when generating said access hierarchy.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

   assigning scores to each of said digital assets based on said use of said digital assets;

   re-ranking said digital assets only if a score of a first digital asset exceeds a score of a second previously higher ranked digital asset by a predetermined threshold.

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5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring step comprises the step of monitoring use of digital images.

5   6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising the step of:

assigning scores for viewing, editing, and transmitting or receiving a digital image, said ranking step comprising the step of processing at least one of said assigned scores.

10   7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring step includes monitoring digitized audio files, the method further comprising the step of assigning scores to playing, editing and transmitting or receiving said audio files, said ranking step including processing said scores.

15   8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said monitoring step comprises the step of:

monitoring a Web browser's navigation history.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:

assigning a first score to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) based on the length

20   of time spent by said user visiting a Web page represented by said URL and a second score if said user downloads digital information from a Web site associated with said URL:

said ranking step further comprising the step of processing at least one of said first and said second scores.

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10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

assigning cumulative scores to a plurality of URL's activated by said user;

re-ranking said plurality of URL's only if a cumulative score assigned to a first

5   URL exceeds a cumulative score assigned to a second previously higher ranked

URL by a predetermined threshold.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

sharing said access hierarchy with a plurality of networked devices.

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12. A system for managing a plurality of digital assets, comprising:

a memory for storing a plurality of digital assets;

a processor in communication with said memory for manipulating said plurality

of digital assets; and

15   a ranking module in communication with said processor and said memory to

rank said digital assets based on user manipulation of said digital assets;

wherein said memory is responsive to said rank of said digital assets to store

said digital assets with higher ranked digital assets more easily accessed than lower

ranked digital assets.

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13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said digital assets are any of digital images

and digital audio files.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein said ranking module is in communication with said processor to assign a first score to a first digital image when said processor accesses said first digital image for viewing and to assign a second score to a second digital image if said processor accesses said second digital image for editing.

15. The system of Claim 12, wherein said ranking module ranks said digital assets at least in part based on user-assigned values.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein said ranking module comprises an inertia algorithm that prevents a re-ranking of said digital assets unless a score of a first digital asset exceeds a score of a second previously higher ranked digital asset by a predetermined threshold.

17. The system of Claim 12, wherein said ranking module comprises an input for receiving data representative of use of said digital assets including any of frequency of use, recency of use, and number of uses of said digital assets, said ranking module being configured to factor in said data representative of said use.

18. The system of Claim 12, wherein said digital assets stored in said memory comprise digital images, said ranking module being configured to use scores assigned to said digital images to calculate a ranking of said digital images, said scores being based on specific user manipulations of said digital images, comprise any of editing, viewing, and transmitting or receiving of said digital images.

19. The system of Claim 12, wherein said digital assets stored in said memory comprise URL's.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein said ranking module comprise an inertia algorithm that prevents a re-ranking of said URL's unless a score of at least one of said URL's exceeds a score of another of said URL's by a predetermined threshold.

21. The system of Claim 13, wherein said ranking module is in communication with said processor to assign a first score to a first digital audio file when said processor accesses said first digital audio file for playback and to assign a second score to a second audio file if said processor accesses said second digital audio file for editing.

22. A method for managing storage of, and access to URL's, comprising the steps of:

     creating a navigation history of URL's activated during a first browsing session at a first device located on a network;

     at the conclusion of said browsing session, saving said navigation history at a location accessible to a plurality of networked devices;

     initiating a second browsing session at a second device located on said network; and

     accessing said navigation history at said second device for use during said second browsing session.

23. The method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

ranking said URL's according to the extent said URL's are used; and

generating an access hierarchy based on said ranking step so that URL's that

are more highly ranked are more easily accessed than lower ranked URL's.

5   24. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

assigning scores to said URL's based on a usage URL usage pattern of said

URL's; and

re-ranking said URL's only if a score of at least one URL exceeds a score of

another previously higher ranked URL by a predetermined threshold.

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25. The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of:

allowing a user to establish said predetermined threshold.

26. A method for managing a list of URL's that is automatically responsive to a

15   user's Web navigation history, comprising the steps of:

creating a Web navigation history that records Web sites visited by said user;

assigning scores to each of said URL's in said Web navigation history based

on use of said URL's;

creating an access hierarchy of said URL's based on said scores, wherein

20   URL's having higher scores are more easily accessed than URL's having lower

scores.

27. The method of Claim 26, wherein said step of creating a Web navigation history comprises recording the recency and frequency with which each of said URL's are activated.

28. The method of Claim 26, wherein said step of creating said Web navigation history comprises the step of:

determining whether data downloaded from Web sites corresponding to said URL's were edited or shared by said user.

29. The method of Claim 26, further comprising the step of:

receiving user-assigned values for each of said URL's, said step of assigning scores further comprising the step of factoring in said user-assigned values.

30. The method of Claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

updating said Web navigation history to record Web sites visits made by said user;

assigning scores to each of said URL's in said updated Web navigation history based on said user's use of said URL's; and

updating said access hierarchy if a score assigned to a first URL exceeds a score assigned to a second previously higher ranked URL by a predetermined threshold.

30. The method of Claim 30, further comprising the step of:

allowing said user to define said predetermined threshold.